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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the 21 United Nations Member States that constitute the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking (Bahrain, Belarus, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), the Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted at the second ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, convened on 26 September 2011 on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be appreciated if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107.

(*Signed*) Zoya **Kolontai**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Second ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking

Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

We, the Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, having met on 26 September 2011 on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York,

1. *Recall* the declaration adopted at the first ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, held on 22 September 2010 on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/65/497, annex), which has contributed to enhancing joint efforts of the Group of Friends in implementing the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

2. *Stress* the importance of discouraging demand with a view to successfully preventing and combating trafficking in persons;

3. *Stress* also the need to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, as a comprehensive document aimed at promoting a coordination mechanism in combating trafficking in persons among key partners, including United Nations Member States, international organizations, mass media, the private sector and civil society;

4. *Acknowledge* that the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons promotes national and international efforts in preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting perpetrators and protecting victims and *recall*, in this regard, the adoption of the anti-trafficking resolutions of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the seventeenth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the twentieth session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which broaden international cooperation in combating trafficking in persons by recognizing the importance of comprehensive and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

5. *Welcome* the launching of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children under the aegis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invite United Nations

Member States, philanthropic institutions, the private sector and all other parties concerned to contribute to the above-mentioned Trust Fund;

6. *Note with appreciation* the steps taken by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, within their existing mandates, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and *encourage* them to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

7. *Welcome* the adoption by the twentieth session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons" and *invite* other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in particular by strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving this goal;

8. *Recognize* the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) in fighting trafficking in persons and *call* upon ICAT to include, as a matter of priority, in the agenda of its annual consultations the issues related to the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

9. *Recognize* also that intensified cooperation among United Nations Member States and international organizations plays a crucial role in full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and, therefore, *encourage* international organizations to work in close partnership with the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking in New York and its chapters in Vienna and Geneva;

10. *Express* support for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in fighting trafficking in persons and, therefore, *look forward* to the elaboration, starting in 2012, by UNODC of a global report on trafficking in persons, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels, including best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms;

11. *Decide* to convene a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.